

What is claimed is:

1. A container comprising:  
an upper end, a lower end, and a sidewall between the upper and lower ends having inner and outer walls; and  
a gel located in the container in contact with a portion of the inner wall, wherein the longitudinal distance between the uppermost point at which the gel contacts the inner wall, and the highest point at which the gel contacts the inner wall substantially opposite the uppermost point is at least about 8 mm.
2. The container of claim 1, wherein the distance is about 8 to about 21 mm.
3. The container of claim 1, wherein the longitudinal distance between the uppermost point at which the gel contacts the inner wall, and the highest point at which the gel contacts the inner wall 90° to 270° circumferentially from the uppermost point is at least about 8 mm.
4. The container of claim 1, wherein the longitudinal distance between the uppermost point at which the gel contacts the inner wall, and the highest point at which the gel contacts the inner wall 120° to 240° circumferentially from the uppermost point is at least about 8 mm.
5. The container of claim 4, wherein the distance is about 8 to about 21 mm.
6. The container of claim 3, wherein the longitudinal distance between the uppermost point at which the gel contacts the inner wall, and the highest point at which the gel contacts the inner wall 180° circumferentially from the uppermost point is at least about 8 mm.
7. The container of claim 6, wherein the distance is about 8 to about 21 mm.

8. The container of claim 1, wherein the gel, along a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the container and located halfway between the uppermost point and the highest point, exhibits less than 180° circumferential contact with the inner wall.

9. The container of claim 8, wherein the gel exhibits less than 120° circumferential contact with the inner wall.

10. The container of claim 1, wherein the gel is a thixotropic gel.

11. The container of claim 1, wherein the container is a tube.

12. The container of claim 11, wherein the tube comprises a pierceable closure therein.

13. The container of claim 1, wherein the lower end is closed, and wherein the gel is disposed at the closed lower end.

14. A container comprising:  
an upper end, a lower end, and a sidewall between the upper and lower ends having inner and outer walls; and  
a gel located in the container in contact with a portion of the inner wall, wherein the gel comprises continuous first and second regions, the first region located at or adjacent to the lower end, and the second region extending upward from a portion of the first region.

15. The container of claim 14, wherein the first region comprises an imaginary upper boundary at which the first region exhibits 360° circumferential contact with the inner wall.

16. The container of claim 15, wherein the imaginary upper boundary exhibits a best fit plane within  $10^\circ$  of a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tube.

17. The container of claim 14, wherein the uppermost point of the second region is located at least about 8 mm higher than the uppermost point of the first region.

18. The container of claim 17, wherein the distance is about 8 to about 21 mm.

19. The container of claim 14, wherein the first region comprises at least about 80 vol.% of the gel.

20. The container of claim 19, wherein the first region comprises about 80 to about 95 vol.% of the gel.

21. The container of claim 14, wherein the interior surface of the gel at the intersection of the first and second regions exhibits a radius of curvature between about 4 and about 8 mm.

22. The container of claim 14, wherein a best-fit plane to the exposed surface of the first region facing the interior of the container exhibits an angle of  $25^\circ$  or less with a plane substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the container.

23. The container of claim 22, wherein the exposed surface of the second region facing the interior of the container defines a best-fit plane exhibiting a  $45$  to  $90^\circ$  angle with a plane substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the container.

24. The container of claim 14, wherein the best-fit plane to the exposed surface of the first region facing the interior of the container exhibits an angle of  $90$  to

140° with the best-fit plane to the surface of the second region facing the interior of the container.

25. The container of claim 14, wherein the first region comprises an upper boundary at which the first region exhibits 300 to 360° circumferential contact with the inner wall.

26. The container of claim 14, wherein, along a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the container located halfway between the average height of the exposed surface of the first region and the uppermost point of the second region, the second region exhibits 80 to 140° circumferential contact with the inner surface.

27. The container of claim 14, wherein the entirety of the second region exhibits less than 180° circumferential contact with the inner wall.

28. The container of claim 27, wherein the entirety of the second region exhibits less than 120° circumferential contact with the inner wall.

29. The container of claim 14, wherein the gel is a thixotropic gel.

30. The container of claim 14, wherein the container is a tube.

31. The container of claim 30, wherein the tube comprises a pierceable closure therein.

32. The container of claim 14, wherein the lower end is closed, and wherein the gel is disposed at the closed lower end.

33. A container comprising:  
an upper end, a lower end, and a sidewall between the upper and lower ends having inner and outer walls; and  
a gel located in the container in contact with a portion of the inner wall,

wherein, at the uppermost point at which the gel contacts the inner wall, the angle between the inner wall and the tangent to the gel surface at the point of contact with the inner wall is about 100 to about 180°, and wherein, at the highest point at which the gel contacts the inner wall opposite the uppermost point, the angle between the inner wall and the tangent to the gel surface at the point of contact with the inner wall is about 70 to about 100°.

34. The container of claim 33, wherein the gel is a thixotropic gel.

35. The container of claim 33, wherein the container is a tube.

36. The container of claim 35, wherein the tube comprises a pierceable closure therein.

37. The container of claim 33, wherein the lower end is closed, and wherein the gel is disposed at the closed lower end.

38. A container comprising:  
an upper end, a lower end, and a sidewall between the upper and lower ends having inner and outer walls; and  
a gel located in the container in contact with a portion of the inner wall,  
wherein upon superimposing on the gel first and second planes perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and spaced a distance  $b$  apart, the intersection between the first plane and the gel defines a filled substantially circular or substantially elliptical shape, and the intersection between the gel and the second plane defines at least one filled substantially crescent or substantially half-moon shape, wherein  $b$  is a distance less than the distance between the uppermost point of gel contact with the tube inner wall and the bottom of the tube, and greater than the distance between the highest point of gel contact opposite the uppermost point and the bottom of the tube.

39. The container of claim 38, wherein the gel is a thixotropic gel.

40. The container of claim 38, wherein the container is a tube.

41. The container of claim 40, wherein the tube comprises a pierceable closure therein.

42. The container of claim 38, wherein the lower end is closed, and wherein the gel is disposed at the closed lower end.

43. The container of claim 38, wherein  $15 \text{ mm} < b < 26 \text{ mm}$ .

44. A container comprising:  
an upper end, a lower end, and a sidewall between the upper and lower ends having inner and outer walls; and  
a gel located in the container in contact with a portion of the inner wall, wherein about 5 to about 20 vol.% of the gel is located within 8 to 12 mm of the uppermost point at which the gel contacts the inner wall.

45. The container of claim 44, wherein about 10 to about 20 vol.% of the gel is located within 8 to 12 mm of the uppermost point at which the gel contacts the inner wall.

46. The container of claim 44, wherein the gel is a thixotropic gel.

47. The container of claim 44, wherein the container is a tube.

48. The container of claim 47, wherein the tube comprises a pierceable closure therein.

49. The container of claim 44, wherein the lower end is closed, and wherein the gel is disposed at the closed lower end.

50. A container comprising:  
an upper end, a lower end, and a sidewall between the upper and lower ends having inner and outer walls; and

a gel located in the container in contact with a portion of the inner wall, the gel having a lowermost point of contact with the inner wall and an uppermost point of contact with the inner wall,

wherein about 10 to about 40 vol.% of the gel is located above a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and located halfway between the uppermost point and the lowermost point.

51. The container of claim 50, wherein about 20 to about 40 vol.% of the gel is located above a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and located halfway between the uppermost point and the lowermost point.

52. The container of claim 50, wherein the gel is a thixotropic gel.

53. The container of claim 50, wherein the container is a tube.

54. The container of claim 53, wherein the tube comprises a pierceable closure therein.

55. The container of claim 50, wherein the lower end is closed, and wherein the gel is disposed at the closed lower end.

56. A container comprising:  
an upper end, a lower end, and a sidewall between the upper and lower ends having inner and outer walls; and  
a gel located in the container in contact with a portion of the inner wall, wherein over 140 to 220° of circumferential contact, the gel exhibits a substantially uniform height in the container, relative to the lower end, and wherein the highest point at which gel contacts the inner wall of the container is about 8 to about 21 mm above the average height of the area having substantially uniform height.

57. The container of claim 56, wherein the gel is a thixotropic gel.

58. The container of claim 56, wherein the container is a tube.

59. The container of claim 58, wherein the tube comprises a pierceable closure therein.

60. The container of claim 56, wherein the lower end is closed, and wherein the gel is disposed at the closed lower end.

61. A container comprising:  
an upper end, a lower end, and a sidewall between the upper and lower ends having inner and outer walls; and  
a gel located in the container in contact with a portion of the inner wall, wherein the gel exhibits a state prior to any centrifugation that substantially resembles an intermediate state of an identical gel undergoing centrifugation in an identical container, wherein the initial state of the identical gel comprises an identical volume of the gel exhibiting a substantially planar exposed top surface.

62. The container of claim 61, wherein the gel is a thixotropic gel.

63. The container of claim 61, wherein the container is a tube.

64. The container of claim 63, wherein the tube comprises a pierceable closure therein.

65. The container of claim 61, wherein the lower end is closed, and wherein the gel is disposed at the closed lower end.

66. The container of claim 61, wherein the exposed top surface of the identical gel exhibits a best-fit plane that exhibits an angle of 0 to 20° to the longitudinal axis of the tube.

67. A process for fabricating a container comprising the steps of:



providing a container having an open upper end, a lower end, and a sidewall between the upper and lower ends having inner and outer walls;

disposing into the container a gel at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the container, wherein the angle is less than 90°.

68. The process of claim 67, wherein the gel is disposed asymmetrically into the container.

69. The process of claim 67, wherein the gel is disposed through an elongate nozzle having at least one nozzle opening that directs the gel at the angle to the longitudinal axis of the container.

70. The process of claim 69, wherein the container is arranged during the disposing step such that the longitudinal axis of the container is aligned substantially vertically.

71. The process of claim 67, wherein the gel is a thixotropic gel.

72. The process of claim 67, wherein the container is a tube.

73. The process of claim 72, wherein the tube comprises a pierceable closure therein.

74. The process of claim 67, wherein the lower end is closed, and wherein the gel is disposed at the closed lower end.

75. The process of claim 67, wherein the angle is about 25 to about 45°.

76. A process for fabricating a container comprising the steps of:  
providing a container having an open upper end, a lower end, and a sidewall between the upper and lower ends having inner and outer walls;

disposing into the container a gel at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the container; and

allowing the gel to slump.

77. The process of claim 76, wherein the gel is disposed through an elongate nozzle having a nozzle opening that directs the gel at the angle to the longitudinal axis of the container.

78. The process of claim 77, wherein the angle is less than 90°.

79. The process of claim 76, wherein the container is arranged during the disposing step such that the longitudinal axis of the container is aligned substantially vertically.

80. The process of claim 76, wherein the gel is allowed to slump while the container is arranged such that the longitudinal axis of the container is aligned substantially vertically.

81. The process of claim 76, wherein the gel is disposed at the lower end of the tube.

82. The process of claim 78, wherein the angle is about 25 to about 40°.

83. A process for fabricating a container comprising the steps of:  
providing a container having an open upper end, a lower end, and a sidewall between the upper and lower ends having inner and outer walls;  
disposing into the container a gel under conditions that promote slumping of the gel after the gel is disposed.

84. The process of claim 83, wherein the gel is disposed through an elongate nozzle having a nozzle opening that directs the gel at the angle to the longitudinal axis of the container.

85. The process of claim 83, wherein the container is arranged during the disposing step such that the longitudinal axis of the container is aligned substantially vertically

86. The process of claim 83, wherein the gel is disposed at the lower end of the tube.